

Henry, Beverley

From: Rep. Hurlburt, Bryan
Sent: Thursday, February 05, 2009 1:21 PM
To: Henry, Beverley
Subject: Members of the Public Health Committee.doc

Bev,
Testimony for tomorrow's hearing from a constituent.
BPH

February 4, 2009

Members of the Public Health Committee,

I am compelled to voice my unequivocal support for **HB 6200 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF LONG-TERM ANTIBIOTICS FOR THE TREATMENT OF LYME DISEASE.**

I have personally suffered debilitating symptoms and health complications for 15 years from undiagnosed Lyme disease. It wasn't until I was aggressively treated with long-term antibiotics by a Lyme-aware physician that I made significant health improvements. To this day, I remain on intermittent antibiotic treatments for my chronic condition.

This legislation would protect physicians from being persecuted by Medical Boards and insurance companies that have adopted the guidelines construed by the *Infectious Disease Society of America (IDSA)* opposing long-term antibiotic treatments for the condition of Lyme disease. It would also allow patients reimbursement from their insurance companies for needed therapies.

Lyme disease remains a misunderstood and controversial illness. There are no accurate diagnostic tests available to detect Lyme disease. A disclaimer at the bottom of any Lyme test states that a diagnosis should not be made by a test alone. Results should be interpreted in conjunction with a patients' history and clinical symptoms. The complexities of this disease are beyond this discussion, but what remains imperative is that physicians be given the autonomy to treat their patients according to their individual circumstances.

Please consider the impact on Connecticut residents who are denied long-term antibiotic treatments by physicians who are constrained by the restrictive guidelines mentioned above.

Thank you for your consideration,



Christopher Dyer

2/13/2009